

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5531

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USUN NEW YORK 3428

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 998

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO EGYPT FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1:

RESUPMTION OF US/EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

BEIRUT FOR BAGHDAD

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. SUMMARY. IN THE SECRETARY'S WORDS, THE US AND EGYPT HAVE
ENTERED AN ERA OF LASTING FRIENDSHIP. CAIRO PRESS EXPRESSES

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MOOD OF OPTIMISM THAT RELATIONSHIP WILL CONTINUE AND DEEPEN

AND THAT ME SETTLEMENT PROCESS IS WORKING. THIS IS REFLECTED BY ATTITUDE OF MANY EGYPTIANS, WHO ALSO EVIDENCE GREAT EXPECTATION THAT RESUMPTION OF TIES WILL MEAN RESUMPTION OF MASSIVE US ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARY'S FOURTH ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS IN EGYPT HAS ENDED. GENERAL MOOD BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL, AS INDICATED BY PRESS AND EGYPTIANS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN, WAS ONE OF OPTIMISM WITHOUT ANXIETY-AFTER ALL, MANY SAID, FAHMY HAS RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON WITH ASSURANCES THAT KISSINGER WOULD CONTINUE EFFORTS TO RESOLVE ME ISSUE,AND IN ITSELF THAT MEANT SUCCESS. ALL HAD READ FROM THEIR OWN PRESS THAT FAHMY'S DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN WARM, AND THAT WITHIN A MATTER OF MONTHS PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD PROBABLY VISIT EGYPT, THEREBY CULMINATING WHAT HAS BEEN, SINCE OCTOBER, AN UNPARELLELED SERIES OF EGYPTIAN FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESSES.

3. TODAY, MARCH 1, THESE REPORTS AND EXPECTATIONS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED. SECRETARY ARRIVED IN CLEAR AND CRISP WEATHER, AND PROCEEDED INTO CAIRO ALONG ROUTE BESIDE WHICH NUMEROUS RESIDENTS AND PASSERSBY SPONTANEOUSLY APPLAUDED HIS PASSAGE. FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH SADAT AT THE PYRAMIDS, AND LUNCH, HE WAS TAKEN TO SAQQARA, THEN TO A SOUND AND LIGHT SHOW OF EGYPT'S PAST AND, IN THE EVENING, A DINNER AT THE SHERATON SUPPER CLUB. AS MANY EXPECTED, IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN THE LATE AFTERNOON THAT THE US AND EGYPT HAD RESUMED FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS; AND THE FOLLOWING MORNING, BOTH THE SECRETARY AND FAHMY ATTENDED A BRIEF FLAG-RAISING CERMONY AT THE EMBASSY. ALL IN ALL, IT WAS A RELAXED AFFAIR, PARTICULARLY IN COMPARISON WITH EARLIER VISITS WHEN EACH SIDE SEEMED DRIVEN, UNDER GREAT PRESSURE AND SOMETIMES ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES, TO ACHIEVE IMMEDIATE GOALS OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE.

4. EGYPTIANS TODAY GENERALLY REGARD THE REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AS AN EVENT OF CONSIDERABLE MOMENT. FOR YEARS, MANY HAVE BELIEVED THAT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US IS A WEATHERVANE OF THEIR OWN NATIONAL FORTUNES. IN THEIR DARKEST HOURS, IT SEEMED THAT THE UNITED

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STATES WAS SOLIDLY IN THE CORNER OF THEIR ENEMIES; AND AS,WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, THE US SHOWED LITTLE INCLINATION TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL, SO THEIR OWN INABILITY TO RESOLVE IT FOR THEMSELVES BECAME MORE APPRAENT, ALONG WITH THEIR SENSE OF DISENCHANMENT AND FRUSTRATION. TIES HAVE NOW BEEN RESUMED. ONE HEARS OFTEN THAT THEY HAVE BEEN RESUMED BECAUSE THE UNTIED STATES HAS FINALLY CHANGED ITS ATTITUDE; AS ALI AMIN PUTS IN AHRAM'S FIRST PAGE, THE CRISIS OF

CONFIDENCE BETWEEN EGYPT AND AMERICA IS ENDED. THE NEW
RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN JUSTIFIED BY THE US'S NEW AWAKENING.

5. A CRITICAL EYE MIGHT SAY THAT AMIN'S ARTICLE, AND
THOSE OF OTHERS, TEND TO JUSTIFY TOO MUCH, AND THAT BEHIND
THIS LIES AN UNEASE ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP AND HOW FAR IT
MIGHT PROCEED. AT THE MAOMEN, HOWEVER, THIS VIEW WOULD
MISS THE POINT: TODAY, EGYPTIANS SEEM TO FEEL THAT THE US
HAS INDEED RECONSIDERED ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPT, AND
FOUND EGYPT DESERVING; THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE TOLD THIS BY
THEIR INFORMATION MACHINERY. TO THESE EGYPTIANS IT FOLLOWS
ALMOST AUTOMATICALLY THAT US ASSISTANCE IS TO BE EXPECTED,
AND WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY. EVEN NOW, THEY SAY, IT CAN BE SEEN
IN THE VISITS TO CAIRO OF US BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC
DELEGATIONS(TO WHICH THE CAIRO PRESS HAS GIVEN MUCH ATTENTION),
TO THE RECENT ARRIVAL OF CHASE PRESIDENT DAVID ROCKEFELLER
AND TO THE PRESENT VISIT OF WORLD BANK PRESIDENT ROBERT
MACNAMARA WHICH, COMING CONCURRENTLY WITH THE SECRETARY'S
POLITICAL MISSION, IS INTERPRETED HERE AS CONFIRMING THEIR
ASSUMPTION. EILTS

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